

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON USG POSITION ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI  
TALKS

1. FOLLOWING ARE POINTS YOU MAY USE WITH HOST GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE SADAT-BEGIN MEETING IN ISMAILIA AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING THAT IS TO BE CONVENED IN JERUSALEM IN MID-JANUARY. PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDANCE IS TO GIVE CONCERNED FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS A SENSE OF OUR THINKING ON THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS AND, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF ARAB STATES, TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR SADAT AND DISCOURAGE STATEMENTS OR STEPS THAT WOULD UNDERCUT HIM. WE DO NOT PLAN TO BRIEF THIRD PARTIES IN DETAIL ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISMAILIA MEETING SINCE WHAT WE KNOW OF IT WAS GIVEN US IN CONFIDENCE BY THE PARTICIPANTS AND IN ANY EVENT OTHERS CONCERNED WILL PRESUMABLY BE BRIEFED DIRECTLY BY THE EGYPTIANS AND/OR THE ISRAELIS (SADAT HAS TOLD US THAT HE IS SENDING MESSAGES TO FRIENDLY ARAB STATES.)

A. WE BELIEVE PROGRESS WAS MADE AT ISMAILIA. BOTH SIDES MADE CLEAR THEIR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AND AGREED ON THE FORMATION OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL COMMITTEES, MEETING AT JERUSALEM AND AT CAIRO, TO WORK OUT THE PRINCIPLES OF SUCH A SETTLEMENT. OUR IN-  
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FORMATION IS THAT THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE MEETING WAS GOOD AND THAT A BASIS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS WAS ESTABLISHED. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT ALL ISSUES IN A DISPUTE AS LONG-STANDING AND AS INVOLVED AS THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT COULD BE RESOLVED AT ONE SITTING.

B. WE BELIEVE THE PARTIES ARE MAKING A SERIOUS EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT. CONCRETE DETAILS WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. SOME VERY HARD ISSUES WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH AND NEGOTIATIONS MAY AT TIMES BE DIFFICULT, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT A BASIC COURSE TOWARD PEACE HAS BEEN CHARTED.

C. THE MAIN PROBLEM THAT WILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED IN THE PERIOD AHEAD IS THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZE THAT FURTHER PROGRESS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE ON THIS ISSUE AND BOTH SEEM DETERMINED TO WORK FOR A SOLUTION. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT WE HAVE NOT ENDORSED THE BEGIN WEST BANK/GAZA PROPOSAL BUT RATHER HAVE SAID IT IS AN APPROPRIATE STARTING POINT FOR NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES. FYI - THE BEGIN PROPOSAL AS GIVEN TO EGYPTIANS WAS MORE ONE SIDED THAN THAT SHOWN

TO US IN WASHINGTON.

D. WE EXPECT THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE TO BE A CENTRAL SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM. THE CAIRO MEETINGS WILL BE BETWEEN DEFENSE MINISTERS AND, WE EXPECT, WILL COVER MILITARY AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

E. THE PARTIES HAVE INVITED THE UNITED STATES TO ATTEND THE JERUSALEM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS AND WE HAVE AGREED TO DO SO. WE WILL, AT JERUSALEM AND IN OUR OTHER CONTACTS WITH THE PARTIES, CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AND TO GIVE THE PARTIES OUR FULL COOPERATION AND SUPPORT IN THEIR EFFORTS.

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2. IF ASKED WHETHER THE SECRETARY WILL ATTEND THE OPENING OF THE JERUSALEM MEETING, YOU MAY SAY THAT THIS IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THAT A DECISION WILL BE MADE SHORTLY. IF ASKED ABOUT USG ATTENDANCE AT THE CAIRO

MEETING, YOU SHOULD SAY WE DO NOT PLAN TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS STAGE BUT EXPECT THE PARTIES WILL KEEP US INFORMED OF THE GENERAL COURSE OF THE TALKS. WE ARE PREPARED TO DO SO IF ASKED.

3. FOR DAMASCUS: YOU MAY AT YOUR DISCRETION DRAW ON FOREGOING TO BRIEF OR TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM SARG.

4. FOR AMMAN, JIDDA AND TEHRAN: IF YOU THINK USEFUL YOU MAY USE FOREGOING TO GIVE HOST GOVERNMENT THE GENERAL FLAVOR OF OUR THINKING. PRESIDENT WILL OF COURSE COVER THIS SUBJECT MORE IN DETAIL IN HIS TALKS WITH THE SHAH, KING HUSSEIN AND KING KHALID.

5. FOR TRIPOLI, BAGHDAD AND ALGIERS: AT YOUR DISCRETION YOU MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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